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(ii) *Carrying out contour bunds and contour trenches.*—To conserve rain water and to prevent soil erosion it is proposed to carry out contour bunds and contour trenches over a lakh of acres every year in the Vizagapatam district and in one of the Ceded Districts and demonstrate the advantages of dry farming methods. Proposals have now been received for carrying out experimental contour bunding work over an area of 5,000 acres near Guntakal and 2,500 acres near Hagari in Bellary district. To begin with, the question of undertaking legislation on the lines of the Bombay Land Improvement Scheme Act, 1942, to enable contour bunding work being undertaken is under consideration of the Government.

(5) A Dry Farming Research Scheme financed partly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and partly by the Provincial Government has been in progress at Hagari in the Bellary district from 1934 onwards. The object of the scheme is to demonstrate the advantages of the improved dry farming practices, bunding and strip cropping.

(6) The Government have had a comprehensive text-book on Soil Erosion compiled for the benefit of departmental officers, students at the Agricultural, Forest, etc., colleges, and others. The book is in the press and is expected to be published shortly.''

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, how long since this scheme for preventing soil erosion near Guntakal has been pending with the Government and when any practical work will be begun?''

THE HON. SRI B. VENKATARATNAM :—" I want notice, Sir.''

Formation of food committees.

* 87 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether district, taluk and village food committees have been formed in all the districts of the Province ;

(*b*) if not, when are they expected to be formed ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that even in some of the districts where food committees have been formed members of the legislature, representing those districts and residing in villages, where such committees have been formed, have neither been consulted nor invited to attend the meetings of such committees ; and

(*d*) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to make the district authorities act in accordance with the instructions of the Government in this respect?

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THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (a) District Committees have been formed in all the districts. Taluk and Village Committees have yet to be formed in some districts as shown below :—

Name of the district.	Number of Committees yet to be formed.	
	Taluk Committees.	Village Committees.
1 Guntur	..	5
2 Nellore	2	..

" (b) Necessary instructions have been issued to the Collectors in the matter and it is hoped that these remaining committees will also be formed very soon.

" (c) Clear instructions have been issued to all Collectors that local members of the Legislatures should be consulted in forming the village committees. The Government are not aware of any complaints so far that these instructions were not adhered to. As the members of the Legislatures are ex-officio members of the District and Taluk Committees, it is expected previous notice of the meetings of these committees will be given to members of legislature residing in villages by the Secretary or the President of the Village Committees concerned. The Government are not aware of any default by any of the Committees in this respect.

" (d) In view of the answer to '(c)' above the question does not arise."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are the Government aware that Muslim Members of the Central Legislature are not included as members of some of the District and Taluk Committees? Is there any discrimination?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" There is no discrimination in this respect; because all members of the Legislatures are ex-officio members, and so this question does not arise."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I know notice has not gone to certain Members of the Central Legislature from some District and Taluk Committees."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" The Government are not aware of it; they are entitled to get the notices. The Government will make enquiries."

Alleged supply of provisions from the Wholesale Rice Co-operative Stores at Tiruvottiyur.

* 88 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a petition from one Mr. M. Munirathna Sarma, President, Village Food Committee, Tiruvottiyur,